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ON MEDICINAL FERMENTED PREPARATIONS, OR WINES.

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To the botanical kingdom the science of medicine is indebted for a large proportion of medicinal remedies, and their adaptation to practical purposes deserves our careful study. I trust that the innovation in this respect which I am about to suggest will appear of practical utility, and that it will be deemed the result of mature consideration and careful investigation.

My proposition is, to form fluid essences of most of the vegetable articles of the materia medica, with the aid of fermentation, thereby generating a certain quantity of alcohol, which will suffice for their permanent preservation. By this method the active principles of most of the vegetable drugs can be preserved in a genuine and efficacious state, and, I believe, may be administered in the form most genial to the human economy. These vinous preparations have the advantage of permanency over the infusions and decoctions, while at the same time they are more readily available. In a great measure they avoid the spirituous admixture of the tinctures, which is a desirable object, inasmuch as we know that alcohol is ill adapted as the menstruum for many of the vegetable medicinal principles, and often interferes materially with their due therapeutic influence. It will be obvious that fermented preparations will possess a great advantage on the score of economy, three pounds of sugar, on an average, answering the purpose of half a gallon of spirit of wine; and if the necessary process connected with the vinous fermentation be somewhat more complicated and tedious, yet that disadvantage will, I think, be fully counterbalanced, especially when the preparations are made on a large scale, and when lengthened experience has ascertained accurately the simplest formula which can be adopted. I have not myself had sufficient length or extent of experience fully to realize all the advantages which I believe the fermented essences may possess; but at any rate I am able to point out the simple method of their preparation, and to vouch for their medicinal efficacy. The limited scale on which my operations have been conducted, and the interference of the duties of active practice, have rendered my observations more imperfect, and my results less satisfactory, than they otherwise would have been. During the last nine months I have, however, acquired some

experience, which I now have the pleasure of recording. The judgment and observation of others have assisted my research, and afforded me some valuable suggestions.

In the preparation of the various wines, reflection and observation induce me to adopt certain principles of operation, which I shall now briefly designate, and at the same time notice the various points requiring especial consideration.

1. It is of course necessary to select those medicinal substances, of which the active principles are capable of aqueous solution. The following articles appear to me well adapted for the fermenting process:—1, aloes; 2, anthemis; 3, armoracia; 4, belladonna; 5, buchu; 6, calumba; 7, cantharides; 8, capsicum; 9, cascarilla; 10, catechu; 11, cinchona; 12, conium; 13, cusparia; 14, colchicum; 15, chimaphila; 16, digitalis; 17, gentian; 18, humulus; 19, hellebore; 20, hyoscyamus; 21, ipecacuanha; 22, lobelia; 23, mezereon; 24, opium; 25, quassia; 26, rheum; 27, scilla; 28, senna; 29, senega; 30, sarsa; 31, scoparium; 32, stramonium; 33, serpentarium; 34, taraxacum. Of some of these substances the entire of the medicinal essence will be obtained, constituting a perfect extract; of others, only a certain portion of the active matter will be isolated and rendered available, but that will be the leading principle, and in its most efficacious form, inasmuch as it will be that which will be most readily recognized and assimilated by the human economy.

2. The aqueous solution of the medicinal principle must be effected according to the method best adapted to each individual instance. Various degrees of temperature should be employed in infusing and digesting the medicinal material. It will be found that in many instances it is necessary to use a high degree of temperature, and that it should be applied continuously for some time. In other cases, cold or tepid infusion or digestion is preferable, and frequently one part of the aqueous menstruum may be used cold and the other in a heated state.

3. The aqueous extract should be submitted to fermentation in a varied state, according to special circumstances:—thus, in reference to opium, its entire substance should undergo chemical action, separating merely the ligneous and earthy matter of the crude extract; and in treating hyoscyamus, digitalis, &c., on the other hand, though the mucilaginous matter is extracted in the first instance, yet it should all be separated before fermentation is allowed to commence. Again, a considerable degree of concentration may sometimes be effected in the fermented preparations; in some much more than in others.

4. The aqueous solution being prepared, a certain proportion of saccharine matter is to be added, to afford an available pabulum for the fermenting process. The maximum amount of sugar which will be required will generally be three pounds, the perfect conversion of which quantity would afford a pound and a half of rectified spirit, being much more than sufficient for the preservation of the preparation, and moreover, the complete fermentation would be tedious, and is by no means required for ordinary purposes. The wines of catechu, cantharides, opium and aloes, may be prepared with even a smaller proportion of sugar than

the above mentioned. Malt may be partially substituted for sugar, and in some wine of gentian so prepared by Dr. Shelley, of Epsom, it certainly seemed to answer admirably, fermenting rapidly, and the preparation remaining sound and fine. Mr. Allan, of Epsom, has suggested the partial substitution of raisins, which, affording their grape sugar and other fermentable substance, would probably answer well, giving additional body to the wine. The bulk, however, both of the malt and of the raisins, constitutes an objection, as it would make the manufacture more troublesome, and cause considerable waste.

5. It is desirable to accomplish the fermenting process as speedily as possible; yeast should therefore be added, and the mash placed in jars or casks, and kept at a temperature between 70° and 80° , which must be maintained equably. At this heat it must remain for a period varying from ten to twenty days, when the sweetness of the liquor will have much diminished, and the violence of the chemical action will have abated. The temperature should then be reduced to about 55° , and the external air excluded as soon as possible. After a certain variable period, the liquid will become still and fine, and being then bottled off, will keep for an indefinite period. If the fermentation be carried on throughout at the temperature of 55° , a much longer period will be required; in some instances the slower and more gradual chemical change is probably more advantageous. When the fermenting process advances towards completion, the wine should on no account be disturbed, and the maintenance of an equable temperature much conduces to the rapid and thorough completion of the fermentation. Some of the common preparations, senna, opium, gentian, &c., will bear much irregularity of temperature, and will not finally be injured by disturbance while working; but in the more delicate preparations, hyoseyamus, digitalis, &c., if the temperature be allowed to vary considerably, or the fluid be much disturbed, it will be difficult to arrest the fermentative process, and it will be apt to recommence violently, and even tend to assume an acetous character.

6. It is a great object to know when the fermenting process having gone on to a sufficient extent, it is desirable to check its further progress, and prevent its beginning afresh. To seize the proper moment of time requires care and judgment, and the state of the wine as to taste and appearance can alone afford a criterion. Acting on the suggestion of Dr. Golding Bird, I endeavored, with the aid of the hydrometer, to ascertain the progressive formation of alcohol, but I found the variations of specific gravity so irregular, according to the peculiarity of the substance in solution, and from the fermentative disturbance, that I could obtain no satisfactory results; generally an increase in specific gravity would be apparent at first, and finally a decrease of from 5° to 50° per mil. would occur. If the fluid be well and thoroughly fermented, in the manner which I have pointed out, I believe there will generally be little difficulty in obtaining it fine, and in good condition for bottling. It usually merely requires to be poured off into open vessels, in which it will settle and become sufficiently flat in from three to seven days. In some instances it may require fining with isinglass.

I will now offer a few observations as to the individual fermented preparations with which I am most familiar.

Vinum Sennæ.—In heating the senna, I first make a strong cold infusion of the leaves, and subsequently digest them with a larger proportion of boiling water; the second infusion is then to be reduced by evaporation as far as may be necessary to bring the whole bulk down to double the strength of the Pharmacopœial infusion; it is then to be proceeded with as already directed. The senna wine is one of the most efficacious and agreeable aperients with which I am acquainted. It acts efficiently by itself, in a sufficient dose, and generally without occasioning either nausea or griping, even though uncombined with any carminative. Saline matter is not very soluble in the wine, but I usually find the addition of a small proportion of the neutral sulphate of potash sufficient to augment its cathartic action. The senna wine which I now have in use has been made upwards of four months.

Vinum Gentianæ.—The gentian wine is an exceedingly efficient stomachic tonic, and is obtained with much facility. I have some prepared by my friend, Dr. Shelley, of Epsom, of which the fermentation was effected, with half malt and half sugar, in the short space of three weeks. From this and other instances, I am induced to believe that the partial substitution of malt promotes the fermentative process, and in many instances would give more permanent character to the preparation.

Vinum Calumbæ, V. Cascarilla, V. Valerianæ.—These may be made four times the strength of their respective Pharmacopœial infusions, and will be found satisfactory and convenient preparations.

Vinum Opii.—The wine of opium is easily prepared. I usually make it twice the strength of the ordinary tincture. The opium is to be macerated in water some days, and the fluid extract strained through coarse canvass, and then submitted to fermentation in the usual manner. I carefully examined the matter unstrained, but could detect no traces of morphia, though the presence of narcotine was apparent; when dried and powdered, and administered in scruple doses, it evidently exerted no anodyne influence, but in some instances there was some stimulating effect, indicated by increased warmth and fulness of pulse. The residuum which subsided after the fluid had undergone fermentation was chemically and microscopically examined by my friend, Dr. Shelley, who was unable to detect the presence of morphia; that of narcotine was probable. I certainly find the wine of opium in the highest degree efficacious, and am often able to substitute it for morphia, where the effects of the tincture are decidedly objectionable. Mr. Allan considers the *vinum opii* to possess the same medicinal qualities as the *liq. opii sedativus*. I feel convinced that those who will give the fermented preparation a trial, will find it a very preferable substitute for the tincture.

Vinum Conii, V. Hyoscyami, V. Digitalis.—These wines are somewhat troublesome to prepare. I think the addition of malt, as suggested, may be available for their more perfect fermentation and preservation.

Vinum Aloës.—This is an excellent preparation, and exceedingly serviceable. I make it of the strength, one to ten, with the addition of sugar, liquorice and saffron; it is not as unpleasant as might be expect-

ed, and is effectual as a stomachic and aperient. It does not gripe, which is probably owing to the resinous matter being got rid of, as its cathartic action is certainly not near so powerful in proportion as the aloes in substance. The preparation will be found a desirable substitute for the compound decoction.

Vinum Catechu.—This is a very pure solution of tannic acid, and exceedingly valuable as an astringent. It is certainly far superior to the infusion and the tincture.

Vinum Ipecacuanhæ, V. Rhei.—These are very satisfactory preparations, and possess all the properties of the drugs in substance, with the advantage of being freed from the inert woody matter. The characteristic smell and taste of the rhubarb are strongly preserved, whereas in the other preparations they are more or less disguised.

Vinum Cinchone.—This is an agreeable preparation, and appears to retain within it all the virtue of the bark. The woody matter, after a sufficiently long infusion and coction, remains perfectly tasteless; so, likewise, was the sediment thrown down, after fermentation; it was of a resinous character, and when treated with acid, afforded no trace of crystalline matter. Ginger, myrrh, jalap, and other medicines of which the active principles are chiefly resinous in their nature, are not available for the process of fermentation.—*London Lancet.*

COMMITTAL OF A MIDWIFE FOR MANSLAUGHTER.

[THE following report of a most remarkable case is abridged from an English paper of August 4th.]

We have this week to record one of the most extraordinary cases of improper treatment which has for some time come under our notice, and which has issued in the committal to York on a charge of manslaughter of a woman who for many years has been employed as one of the midwives to the Sheffield Public Dispensary. A jury of respectable gentlemen, having Mr. Bussey for its foreman, was impanelled at the Town Hall last Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock, to make inquiry touching the death of a male child born, but not named, of the body of Mrs. Harriet Mappin, wife of Mr. Francis Mappin, of Queen's Court, Shepard street, file forger. It appeared that on the 27th of June last, Mrs. Mappin had occasion to call in the assistance of a midwife, and the person sent for was Mrs. Hannah Cushforth, of Brocco street, who had acted in that capacity for a number of years under the sanction of the officers of the Public Dispensary, and whose services under such circumstances were generally considered by the inhabitants of her neighborhood very efficient. In performing her office, from some cause or other she had the misfortune to separate the body of the child from its head; and, if the evidence of several witnesses be true, she made use of such instruments, and in such a manner, as to display on her part the greatest ignorance and inhumanity, sufficient, in the opinion of the jury, to justify them in returning the verdict mentioned above. The child was buried in the parish church yard, and for some time no investigation

into the case was instituted ; but the facts having been brought before the board of governors of the Dispensary, and having come within the cognisance of Thomas Badger, Esq., the Coroner for the district, the body was forthwith ordered to be exhumed, and a strict inquiry was made into all the particulars. The best mode of presenting the case will be to give as cautious an abstract of the evidence as its character will admit.

Harriet Mappin, wife of Francis Mappin, of Shephard street, deposed—On Wednesday, the 27th of June, at 9 o'clock in the morning, I sent for Mrs. Cushforth, who is a midwife to the Dispensary, and resides near the Brocco. She came soon after 10 o'clock. She said I should not require her services for seven or eight hours. She asked for some tobacco, and began to smoke, but had nothing to drink. She asked me to send for half a jack of gin, and when it was brought she gave it to me. She got a piece of tape, and said it was to assist in the birth of the child. She asked me for 2d, and said she wanted to get some "American coffee" for me, as I was getting very weak and my feet cold. She got the "American coffee," and gave me some of it several times. After she had used the piece of tape she said she had lost it, and sent my mother for a halfpennyworth of broad tape. She used it, and said she had lost that piece also. That was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. She got another piece of tape, and used it in like manner. She then said that if she touched the child again its head would come off. She hurt me a great deal, and I lost much blood. Part of the child was born at 3 o'clock. Mrs. Cushforth called to Mrs. Beaumont to come and see it, and said that its head was clean off, but that she had never touched it. She said the head was in the womb. When she used the tape, I saw her tie it, but I do not know how. She did not cut the navel string. After 4 o'clock she asked Mrs. Jowitt for a hook. Mrs. Jowitt said that there was nothing but the meat spit. Mrs. Cushforth said, "Well, bring it here." I saw her break one of the hooks off, and she told Mrs. Jowitt to straighten the wire which had been wrapped round it, but not to straighten the hook. This was done, and Mrs. Jowitt introduced the hook for the purpose of forcing the child out of the womb. It was an iron hook. She hurt me very bad, and I told her to let me alone, and let me die, as I was in so much pain. After drawing her hand backward and forward she took the hook out, and said it was of no use. About 6 o'clock, Mr. Moore, surgeon, was sent for. He came, and got out the head of the child, and at the same time the afterbirth. One of the feet of the child had been screwed round. The hook that she used she took away with her. Mrs. Jowitt took the child to be buried on the Friday after, in a box with leather hinges. I told her several times to let me alone, and let me die ; but she said if I had a doctor he would hurt me much worse. The child was alive when Mrs. Cushforth first came.

[Evidence similar to the above, from other witnesses, is omitted here.]

Nathaniel Moore, of Moorfields, surgeon and chemist, said—On Wednesday, the 27th of June, between 5 and 6 in the evening, I was

called to attend Mrs. Mappin. I found her laid on a mattress on the floor, bleeding and very pale. Mrs. Cushforth was with her, and the first thing she said was, "Doctor, the child is part born." I found a male child without the head, with the navel string attached. I asked how long the body had been in that position, and she said three hours. I asked why they had not sent for a surgeon, and Mrs. Cushforth said she had wanted a surgeon to be sent for, but Mrs. Mappin would not permit it. The women in the house said they had wanted a surgeon to be sent for. I asked Mrs. Cushforth why she had killed the child, and she said it had been dead a fortnight. Mrs. Mappin denied this, and said it was alive when Mrs. Cushforth came. The right leg of the child was broken; there was a fracture on the thigh, and the feet were much injured. The right foot was torn off, and there were marks of violence all over the child. I did not see the iron hook, but I saw one like it. I extracted the head of the child. I inferred that Mrs. Cushforth was afraid the woman would die, for she said, "Do attend to her." The child was about seven months gone. I never saw a more gross case of ignorance and want of skill, with more brutal treatment. I consider that with proper care the child might have lived. I desired Mrs. Mappin and the women to make the Dispensary or lying-in-hospital acquainted with the circumstances of the case. I told them not to bury the child till the woman was out of danger.

Robert Sorby, Esq., having been summoned by the Coroner to give evidence, deposed as follows—"I am a magistrate of the borough of Sheffield, and President of the Sheffield Public Dispensary. (The Coroner here told Mr. Sorby that the reason he had been called upon was to know whether any complaint had been made to him as President of the Dispensary about this case, and the conduct of the midwife.) Mr. Sorby proceeded—Last Wednesday week was our Board-day, and Mr. Hunter, one of the surgeons of the Dispensary, called upon me, and stated that a case would be brought before the Board that day relative to the death of a child whose mother had been attended by one of the midwives to the Dispensary. I told him that my engagements would not permit me to be present that day, but I desired him to bring the case before the Board, and have it fully investigated. By a minute of the Board made that day, I found that they appointed Mr. Beckitt and Mr. Barber, accoucheurs to the Dispensary, to investigate the case, and report upon it at the next meeting. Last Wednesday I was in the chair at the meeting of the Board, and their report was read, and the consequence was the dismissal was ordered immediately of Mrs. Cushforth, and it was registered in our books. I may state that this is not a case belonging to the Dispensary, only so far as she is a midwife to the Dispensary. There are no tickets issued to these poor women, though I do admit that we recognize her as one of our midwives. There was a note sent to the Board by Mrs. Cushforth, resigning her situation, about the time that she was dismissed. The case was investigated immediately that it was communicated to the Board. I think it only just and right to state that generally speaking we have had great satisfaction from the conduct of our midwives at the Dispensary, taking them as a body of individuals."

The Coroner observed that it was now a question whether women ought to perform that office at all.

The following is a copy of the report sent in by Mr. Beckitt and Mr. Barber :

"In compliance with your request that we should inquire into the complaint against Mrs. Cushforth, one of the midwives of your Dispensary, we beg respectfully to state, that we have done so ; and find that on Wednesday, the 27th of June, at the request of Mrs. Harriet Mappin, residing in Queen's row, Shephard street, Mrs. Cushforth attended on her at her second confinement, and that she adopted unwarranted treatment, displaying great ignorance of her duties, and even greater want of humanity ; and that we recommend her immediate dismissal from her office of midwife to the Dispensary."

Hannah Cushforth was then asked if she had anything to say, and she was cautioned in the usual manner. The Coroner told her that she was charged that by her gross and wilful ignorance in the delivery of that child she had separated the body from the head, and so caused its death. The child was living when she was sent for, and she was charged with having killed that child. Mrs. Cushforth then said—When I went to Mrs. Mappin's in the morning I wanted to give up and send for a doctor ; but she said she had not a Dispensary ticket, and could not get a doctor without. I staid with her till dinner time, and then went home. I came back again, and she was just the same as when I went. I laid me down by her side till about 3 o'clock, and then I got up and tried a pain. I waited further till 4 o'clock, and then did in the like manner. Then the legs and body were born all at once. I was down on one knee and one foot, and I took hold of the body of the child at the next pain ; but she gave a sharp jerk back, which caused my knee to slip, and the head of the child went off. Then I told them to send for a doctor directly. They did not go directly, so then I sent for a halfpenny worth of tape, but I never used any tape. They went for the doctor, as I was informed, but he would not come without being paid, and I gave them a note to go to Mr. Smith, one of the Union surgeons. The doctor then came, and I told him how the misfortune had happened. I did not use either tape or hook. When the doctor had done what he had to do, I washed the child, and wrapped it up, and went home. I wanted to get some one else at 3 o'clock ; but she would not let me. It is twenty years since I became midwife, and I never had one misfortune all that time. I hope you will have mercy on me, and I am very sorry indeed ; but it is a very hard case for me.

Mrs. Mappin was re-called, and she repeated her former assertions that the tape was used three several times, and the hook once introduced into the uterus. Also that Mrs. Cushforth did not ask to send for a doctor.

The Coroner then said that this was a very difficult case in all its circumstances. There was considerable doubt whether the child had died through the wilful and rash ignorance of the midwife, or whether it was from an accidental slip or misfortune. It seemed scarcely possible, however, that such could be the case. It would be for the jury to say

in what manner they thought the child had died. If they thought the child was living, and would have maintained a separate, independent existence, and that the woman displayed such want of care and skill, with such rashness and violence, as caused the death of the child, the least they could do would be to bring in a verdict of manslaughter. The Coroner then quoted a case from one of the law books, in which a woman undertook to deliver a person, and displayed gross ignorance, in which case it was decided that she was guilty of manslaughter. This was one of the nicest cases and the most difficult he had ever met with, as to whether it would amount to manslaughter; but if, on the other hand, the jury thought the woman had exercised proper skill and care, then, taking the most lenient view of this certainly most extraordinary proceeding, they would return a verdict that this child came to its death accidentally.

The room was then cleared of all but the jury, and after consulting together for about an hour they found a verdict of manslaughter against Mrs. Cushforth, who was accordingly committed to York to take her trial for that offence.

SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Your Journal of July 25th ult., was handed me a few days since, containing the outlines of my practice in Asiatic cholera during its prevalence in this city during the present season. The communication was made you by Dr. McCall, of this place (see page 502). Had the doctor shown me his letter, or informed me that he intended writing you on the subject, I should have insisted upon his going more fully into detail, and it would have saved me the trouble of this communication. I am opposed, and ever have been, to making contributions to medical journals, as I think much is written for them which may, and in many cases will, lead the young and untrained mind into error, and thereby mischief is inflicted upon the community. I am only speaking for myself, not for others. What seems to me good policy, would appear bad to others. But to the communication of Dr. McCall; and before I enter upon a detail of the treatment given to cholera, by myself, permit me to say, that when cholera made its appearance amongst us, in the year 1833, I gave it the general treatment of this section of the country; viz., calomel and opium, mustard plaster, &c. &c. Under this practice not more than one half recovered. When it appeared in 1835, I again commenced the same treatment, with the exception that I enlarged the quantity of opium. In many cases this would arrest the action of the bowels; but as soon as the operation of the calomel commenced, a new agent gave a new impulse to the action of the bowels, and in a short time death would be the result. It will not do, in all cases, to rely on bilious ejection from the bowels. It is a fatal delusion! A cat in the meal! The "egg of a serpent in the dove's nest," which will most assuredly hatch a serpent.

What are the pathological conditions of the liver as made known by the knife of others, to say nothing of our own experience on the subject? Let us consult the *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*, Vol. I., page 410. "The liver has been found gorged, but occasionally its condition was natural. The gall-bladder was generally distended, and the ducts were contracted, so that the viscus could not be emptied by pressure; but in some cases they were pervious." We have taken for granted, that if this be true, as to the condition in all cases, where the liver is engorged, and its ducts constricted, a few discharges will wash out the contents of the bowels, and the rice-colored fluid will make its appearance; but in those cases where the liver is in its natural condition, or pervious, you would have bilious diarrhœa, bilious purging and puking, the rice-colored fluid being disguised in this bilious dejection and ejection from the stomach and bowels, which, if not arrested, will go on to collapse and death. Now is it reasonable to suppose, in those instances where the gall-bladder is engorged, and the ducts constricted, that calomel and opium can do that towards emptying the gall-bladder which pressure cannot? Suppose that the calomel and opium should not unloose the liver, what are the consequences? We answer by saying, when the opium ceases to exert its influence, the calomel takes up its line of action upon the bowels, and an additional quantity of serum is taken from the vascular system, and the increased peristaltic action of bowels so much augmented, that it is impossible to arrest it, and death is the consequence, unless the sufferer has a constitution which will resist cholera and calomel both. But we will now see how the case stands, where the liver is natural and pervious. This, then, must be the pathological condition of the liver—where the bilious diarrhœa, bilious puking and purging attend. Here we have the bilious secretions, from the stomach and bowels, without the use of calomel, and still the patients collapse and die. Yet you give calomel, to make the liver do, what it is already doing, and one half of the cases prove mortal, sometimes more.

If bile, then, be the natural cathartic, it certainly will carry off all offending matter in the stomach and bowels, when thrown in excess upon these organs, without calomel. Suppose the treatment is successful by the opium arresting the disease, and locking up the calomel in the alimentary canal; I am sure that it will not be urged that the case was cured by the specific action of the mercury. The case must have proved fatal before this could be accomplished. Our conclusion, then, is, it is wrong to fret, tease and excite the bowels, to make them do what they are already doing, or make them do what pressure would fail to perform, without lacerating the gall-bladder or its ducts. I take it for granted, all purging, whether with calomel or any other cathartic, only tends to increase the already greatly-excited and disturbed alimentary canal, thus adding fuel to fire.

I am forced to say, in all the cases that I have seen, from 1833 to this date, the contents of the alimentary canal had been pretty well discharged previous to my reaching them, and the stomach and bowels washed out by the serum having been carried into them, from the system.

Indeed, the first or second action from these organs is sufficient to empty them. The residue is only competent to color the discharges.

In the year 1835, after losing at least one half of my patients under the calomel and opium treatment, I concluded that the practice must be wrong. I determined to give astringents in conjunction with opium, which I did, with much better success than under the calomel and opium treatment, sometimes giving as high as two grains to six of pulv. opium, from twenty-five to thirty-five and as high as sixty grains of sugar of lead, and at times I would find some resist any quantity of the sugar of lead, it made no difference how large, and still prove fatal. Driven by these considerations to a more powerful astringent, I selected the tinct. of nut-galls, tinct. of opium, and tinct. of camphor, equal parts of each. I gave from one to four teaspoonfuls of this mixture, directly after each action from the stomach or bowels. The object in giving *after* each operation is, if it is given *before* it will mix up with the contents of the stomach and bowels, and thereby (in a great measure) its influence is lost, or feebly sustained; but if given *immediately after* each action, the canal is empty, and it will be spread out instantly on the surface of the stomach and bowels, and cannot mix with the contents, and you are assured of its good effects. But with these remedies I had a serious difficulty to contend against. Thus combined, the laudanum would sometimes affect the brain too powerfully, before the disease was arrested. Yet even with *that* difficulty, I found it a better and more reliable practice than that of the sugar of lead and opium; more speedy, more prompt and decisive in checking the action of the stomach and bowels.

I made no alteration in the prescription during the prevalence of cholera in the year 1835. When the cholera made its appearance this *last* winter, I commenced its treatment with the *same* articles, and proportions, but I had the *same* difficulties (the effect of the laudanum upon the brain), for I am well satisfied that the heedless manner in which opium is given (as by Dr. Hawthorne) has sent almost as many to the grave as the pestilence itself. I gradually lessened the quantity of laudanum and camphor, and increased the quantity of tinct. of nut-galls. But for mild forms of diarrhœa, I gave from one to two teaspoonfuls (equal parts each) of nut-galls, tinct. of laudanum and tinct. camphor. The patient should take neither water nor food until the diarrhœa is stopped. He may wash his mouth frequently. In all cases he should observe strictly the horizontal position. Whenever the vomiting or purging occurs, I give a tablespoonful of tinct. of nut-galls, a teaspoonful each of laudanum and camphor, with half a teaspoonful of the tincture of red pepper, and apply a mustard plaster large enough to cover the entire abdomen, which should remain as long as the patient can possibly bear it *without being restless*, for restlessness will do more harm than the plaster can do good. Here, again, nothing must be taken on the stomach and bowels that could in the least excite action after they have become calm, for several hours. Should this quantity fail to arrest vomiting and purging, or either of them, a teaspoonful each of laudanum and tinct. of camph. and from four to eight tablespoonfuls or even more of the tinct. of nut-galls. It should be drunk *undiluted*, and an injection of four or five ounces of the tinct. of

nut-galls thrown up the bowels. Should this quantity fail to arrest the action of the stomach and bowels, no fear need be entertained of danger in giving from six to eight ounces; it will pass the entire alimentary canal in from fifteen minutes to one hour, and if it is retained I have never known it to engender any other disease, or do any mischief to those organs. After the actions have been stopped, no fear need be excited by letting the bowels alone. In a few days, they will act of their own accord.

I now come to speak of the collapse stage. From some efforts I have made to save those who had passed into collapse, I believe it is wrong to abandon the cure. The serum of the blood has now to be restored, or the individual must inevitably die. How is this to be accomplished? Neither medicine nor stimulants can do it! What then? When the patient is approaching, or is in a state of collapse, after his stomach and bowels are tied up by the tincture of nut-galls (if this is not done, all that is taken into the stomach will run off by the bowels), give to drink freely of good mutton soup, one half pint at a time; gum water, sweetened, with a little peppermint in it; occasionally a little brandy toddy; ice beat fine, so that it can be swallowed. Let it be taken at pleasure, and in any quantity desired. It is astonishing how much the stomach will bear of the soup, gum-water and pounded ice. Should it be disposed to run off by the bowels, give the tinct. of nut-galls freely until the action of the bowels is arrested. Every hour that a patient lives under this treatment, adds to the chance of his recovery.

I have succeeded, by this practice, in doing much good; and in conclusion of this article, permit me to say, that I have given the tinct. of nut-galls freely, and in large quantities, in all the grades of cholera, and have never seen any bad effects from it, either directly or indirectly, in the first instance. The object in giving it, is to arrest the action of the stomach and bowels. It should be given until this object is attained, be the quantity much or little. I know that it is said, and has been urged, that the combination of laudanum and tinct. of nut-galls is incompatible; that nut-galls is an antidote for laudanum. If so at all, it is but slightly so. If the tinct. of nut-galls is an antidote for laudanum, why is it not universally used as such? I will venture the opinion, that there is no well-informed physician anywhere, who would risk his reputation by alone giving the tinct. of nut-galls as an antidote for opium. Pereira, in his *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, Vol. II., page 710, says—*"There are no known agents which completely destroy the activity of opium by their chemical properties, and which can be resorted to in these cases. Infusion of galls, however, is regarded as the best, though an imperfect antidote."* My experience is, that it is no antidote at all.

I should have remarked, it sometimes occurs, that after the disease has been arrested, the patient is attacked with bilious vomiting. This is occasioned by the gall-bladder emptying its contents, which are thrown up. As soon as the stomach has ejected its contents, the irritability of the viscus is easily quieted by a few full doses of morphine, and rest. It also sometimes happens, that during the administration of laudanum, spirits of camphor and galls, the stomach will eject soon after their administration; but the close observer will soon see that there is

no serum thrown. The effort to vomit afterwards will be arrested by a few doses of morphine, and rest.

I have used these articles since January last. I have given nothing else, until my patients have in a great measure recovered, after which I have sometimes found it necessary to give a few blue pills. My most sanguine expectations have been realized, and I am entirely satisfied with the results. I have used the remedies in my own case, and those of my children and servants. When the patient complains of sour stomach, a sufficient quantity of sup. carb. of soda should be taken to neutralize it.

Yours respectfully,

Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 14, 1849.

PETER W. MARTIN.

CALOMEL IN CHOLERA—THE CHOLERA IN NEW ORLEANS—HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—In your weekly number, issued on the 8th inst., I find two articles relating to the same subject, Cholera; on each of which I will, by your leave, offer a few remarks.

The animadversions of Prof. Bigelow, prefatory to the letter of Dr. Sutton, on the administration of large doses of calomel in cholera, please me much; they are just and philosophical, and the deductions are as sound as the gentleman could possibly have made them had he been present amongst us in the South and West, and seen this empirical and unsuccessful practice carried to its fullest extent. The principal argument of the Professor, the mortality, is as strong as Gibraltar; it is altogether unanswerable. The number of these calomel fanatics is gradually decreasing in our country, as the views of men are more expanded by improved preliminary as well as professional education, and I hope the day is not far distant when our practitioners will look back on the calomel practice of Cook, Cormick, &c., as only a pretty kaleidoscope view in the circle of life, pleasing to the eye, curious, but frail, and forever obliterated by the slightest touch from the hand of man.

The next article in your Journal, which has arrested my attention, is one claiming the privilege, the propriety, of introducing a series of extracts from the pen of a Dr. Joslin, of New York, who, it seems, has given birth to a *book* on the subject of cholera. Dr. Joslin furnishes very ample statistics (*will "A Subscriber" endorse them?*) in order to establish the superiority of Homœopathy, and amongst these I find an item or two from the pen of Dr. Leon, one of our own New Orleans homœopaths.

Dr. Leon says, that "between the months of Sept. 1848, and May, 1849," 6,000 persons have died of cholera in our city. Really, we must congratulate the worthy Doctor on his extreme state of felicity; for, if "ignorance is bliss," then he cannot be otherwise than supremely happy. By reference to the *official records* of deaths by cholera, in New Orleans, since the advent of the disease, I am enabled to inform "A Subscriber,"

Dr. Joslin, yourself, and the profession at large, that the total number (up to May 1st) is 2,617, only some 3,383 less than the gratuitous estimate of Dr. Leon. To us, allopaths, this would appear quite an important mistake; but by those who take such contracted, such infinitesimal views of matters and things medical, to say nothing of the *truth*, doubtless the difference is considered trifling. But let us carry out the calculation of Dr. Leon. He says that 6,000 persons have died, and that the allopaths have lost 50 per cent. of those afflicted; which would go to show that the allopaths have treated 12,000 patients. Now, we show, by the *official records*, that there have been, up to 1st of May, but 2,617 deaths; and, granting that the allopaths have lost 50 per cent., we find the total aggregate of cases *afflicted* to be 5,234; less, by 776, than the number of *deaths* reported by Dr. Leon. Say, then, that 5,234 persons were attended by the allopaths, and that 6,000 *died*, and we have 776 *more dead than were afflicted*. Surely allopathy should be abandoned now; when the profession kill even more than are sick, it is time that some other practice should be substituted.

But where are the homœopaths all this time? We have assumed the responsibility of having killed 6,000 out of 5,234; under such circumstances we got every case of cholera in the city; and the proposition is self-demonstrative, that neither Dr. Leon nor his *confrères* attended a single case of cholera during its prevalence here. So far from curing 59 out of 60 cases, according to his own very extensive calculation, he did not *attend a single case*. He must either assume this very unpleasant garb, or he must, with his brethren, join us in the unprecedented glory of having killed more patients than we ever attended.

Having shown, then, that the first part of Dr. L.'s statement has not even the faintest shadow of truth hovering over it; that it is but the bitter fruit of a vivid and vicious imagination; let us pass on a little farther, and see whether it is possible that he could have procured data on which to base his assertion, that the allopaths lost 50 per cent. of their patients.

During the prevalence of cholera in New Orleans, there existed no law or ordinance requiring physicians to report all cases of the disease coming under their care; a certificate of the *deaths* was the only requisite. Dr. Leon could not, then, have procured his data from any official source. In New Orleans, physicians (allopaths) and homœopaths have no professional intercourse; we are each *sui generis*, and we amalgamate not. Dr. Leon could not, then, have procured his data from us. Grant, however, that the Doctor did apply to us for information on this subject, we should like to know how many physicians could have furnished him any thing like accurate data; how many of us keep an account of the number of patients under our charge? You, sir, are well aware how very difficult it is to arrive at any thing like accurate results, even when there are rigid laws hanging over the heads of our brethren.

What a prolific brain, then, has our worthy Dr. Leon! And yet, we are sure the gentleman could never have paid sufficient attention to his mathematics! No! *Number one* is quite as far as his elastic conscience

ever dictated he should progress in this very important branch of education. But, "God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man"!

With regard to Dr. Joslin, we know nothing of him, save what we learnt of his character by reading a lecture of his on cholera, read before the trustees of the Homœopathic Dispensary of New York. It seems that the extracts in your Journal have been clipped from this same lecture; if so, we must express our surprise! Did "A Subscriber" peruse the whole of this lecture? Have you, sir, read the extraordinary production? If neither of you have read it, let me recommend the document; and, my life on it, you will both wash your hands for the future of all productions emanating from such a source.

The foregoing remarks have not been prompted by a spirit of prejudice; we are only indignant at seeing a football made of Truth; to say nothing of our mortification when we behold the pages of one of our leading Journals thus desecrated by these vile extracts, manufactured to serve only the most sordid purposes.

D. W. B.

New Orleans, Aug. 18th, 1849.

QUACKERY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I have thought it might be at least *amusing* to your subscribers to read the following somewhat curious document. It was given to me by a patient who had been for several years afflicted with epileptic fits, and who applied to a *mesmerizer* or *mesmerizeress*, to ascertain the *precise* cause of the trouble. It is amusing to see in what curiosities our goodly city abounds, and what wonderful talent exists in the *assumed* medical profession in these days. Here is a class of empirics who profess to *look right through* all the integuments of the human body, and take a "bird's-eye view" of the state of all the viscera and of every internal organ. They are so "eagle-eyed" that the smallest lesion in the minutest particle of the human organization cannot escape their search, and so pathologically correct is their diagnosis, and so thorough their knowledge of the *materia medica* and skill in prescribing, that they can direct to the *very medicine which will prove an all-powerful specific, in every case.* "*O tempora! O mores!*" What will come next? Perhaps it may seem like taking too much notice of one of the silliest *hum-bugs* that has flown around, and buzzed among us, in these times of *progress*, and of the astounding credulity of the age in which we live. But, such as it is, Mr. Editor, here you have the genuine "*Examination and Prescription,*" *verbatim et literatim*, with only this additional remark, which was affirmed by the patient, that the *priestess*, while declaring the *arcana* from the *oracle* (more wise than that of Delphos), fell into *two genuine epileptic fits, for the purpose of showing the patient how one appeared in such a state:* that is, was really thus affected.

"*Examination.*—Scrofulous Humour in Blood.

Get a Bottle Babery Snuff take it constantly

Put a blister Across from Ear to Ear

3 mornings before putting on the blister Shower the head With Cold Water

Nevous System has been Renshed By convulsives fits

Convulsion Come on between twelve & one O. C.

Rub the Limbs With flannels vinegar & Water

Get a ounce of Ether own of Camfir $\frac{1}{2}$ oz paragoric take it Clear, as soon as the Spasm com on

take $\frac{3}{4}$ of Great Spoon ful before they come on

Rub the temples armes & Stomach With vinegar & Water

Spasms Brought on By Straining the nervs & cramping them

Nounce Cramp Convulsion fits

Blood in a Cold State

Get an oz of Picre put in a pint New Rum take a $\frac{1}{2}$ Glass Tuesday & friday Morning for Six Weeks

the Blood Gets in Cold State Strikes to the Stomach When She is a Sleep stagnates & Cuses the Spasms

Be verrey cautious not to Goo to Sleep on your Back Lay on your Side turn over often

take $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Blood from Right arm before You Rub, this Will help the pain in the head

Soak the feet on thursda in Salt & Water Rub the Limbes with the Same

take table Spoon full of Oil twice a Week Opposite the Picra "

One more item, and we have done with the astounding medical advancements of the present day in good old Massachusetts. It may serve as a grand climacterical auxiliary to the preceding, or some other equally nonsensical humbug that feeds the gullible appetite of the present age on medical matters. The prefatory remarks are from the Bee of this city.

"The following directions for using a cure for the rheumatism were handed by the doctor who prepares it, to a printer in this city for publication in a hand bill. We assure our readers that it is not at all exaggerated; it is set up from the original, *verbatim*."

"A CURE FOR THE RHEUMATISM.

"A celebrated mederciene for this complaint this mederciene is Composed of metrials of his one Collection of South Canton mass.

N. B. Directions for using; take won tea spunful in the Morning mixed with a Little of molaces accept those that have a Strong Constition which Can bare a little more, take it for fore Days and you will find your pains Removing and in the Corse of ten or twelve Days you may think your self gitting Red of them. In case that the patient has swelled Joints and Paine ful there is an Erb that aught to be used at the same time as a poltice, in order to releave the pane in the Corse of one or two Nights, and take down the swelling in a short time. I have other other mederciene on hand for many other Complaints Sutable for famerlys use to keep on hand in Case of Suding attacks which we are all liable to meat with and not to be without and keep for ears if tacon of, a Child can use the same in moderate Doses there is not a nother person knone in the States that can prepare these articles, which can be

had by some agents in many places or towns &c and may be had of Mr — — No — street, Boston.—Prepared and put up only By Dr —.

"All of you that have eused this medeciene and sattisfide Plese to in form you nabours and frinds whare it may be had."

We shall not expect to hear anything more about *progress* in medicine, as the *acme* has now been reached; so we bid farewell to Hippocrates and Galen, and all the moderns will go to mesmerism and S. C.

Yours, W. M. C.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 5, 1849.

Medical Lectures.—Another season is fast approaching for re-commencing the annual course of instruction in the medical colleges of this country. Their number is rapidly increasing, to the injury, perhaps, of the cause they are all ambitious to sustain. But although all are agreed that there is danger of a too rapid multiplication of medical institutions, the government of each one refers to some other that is not needed to meet the public demand or expectations; and thus, while each deplores the existence of its neighbor, it is not at all likely that any board of faculty will resolve that its own organization is prejudicial to the interests of the whole profession. As the indications now are, half a dozen more will urge their way into notice, before any one now chartered falls back into nothingness.

In the order of circulars before us, is one from the Albany Medical College, which is well conducted, and highly spoken of. Dr. March has a distinguished reputation as a surgeon, and his instruction in the chair is all that could be desired. Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, of world-wide reputation, is one of the professors. Dr. Lewis G. Beck, an author on chemistry, is a professor in that department, and under his fostering attentions it is hoped that chemistry will have attached to it that importance which it so justly deserves.

The Philad. College of Medicine is the youngest school in that renowned city, but not less successful on that account. It had, according to the catalogue, 161 students the last term, of which 61 received degrees in the course of the official year. From what can be gathered from those conversant with the management of its affairs, the most flattering destiny seems in reservation.

The Medical College of South Carolina, is located at Charleston. From its inception, to the present moment, its activity and sterling reputation have been understood abroad. There was a class of 141 last season, and 45 were graduated. Those of a delicate constitution, and such as have irritable lungs, who find it difficult to contend with the atmospherical vicissitudes of a New England winter, might advantageously improve the opportunity of pursuing their lectures in the bland climate of Charleston.

Service Pipes for Water.—A vast array of argument has been adduced, for and against the use of lead pipe, in the conveying of water from the

street iron logs into the dwellings of the inhabitants. An evident disposition was from the first apparent, on the part of the public authorities, to ascertain, seasonably, whether it was possible to have a suitable material besides lead; and for that purpose they referred the subject, very properly, to the board of consulting physicians, who made immediate effort to collect facts and the opinions of men distinguished for their chemical researches and experience. In the history of the inquiry, which may hereafter be studied as one of the curiosities of science, it was made manifest, according to the evidence of one set of witnesses, that lead, since its introduction in various modes, into domestic economy, has been one of death's most effective agents. In short, the good people of Boston, according to the bug-bear suggestions of some, must have been lined with sheet lead throughout, as the water they were drinking from the old wells held that metal in solution with about as much facility as a cup of tea dissolved a lump of sugar. On the other hand, the records of antiquity were ransacked to prove that the use of lead pipe is as old as the walls of Herculaneum and Pompeii; and from the epoch of their construction, down to Anno Domini 1848, every city in the world, having public water works, had invariably resorted to lead for service-pipes, where it could be had. And it was further shown, most triumphantly, that, although there were collections of water in the city which actually destroyed lead quite speedily, there were many others where it might remain a hundred years without essential deterioration.

Among others who were consulted, was Prof. E. N. Horsford, of the neighboring University of Cambridge, whose investigations belong to an elevated class of inquiries, and which, were there no other evidences of his ability and profound attainments, would favorably transmit his name to after times. Prof. Horsford's reasonings, facts and views constitute a pamphlet of forty pages, purporting to be from the proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A single paragraph presents the conclusions to which he arrived at the termination of a series of experiments, which will be of interest to all strangers who quench their thirst with Cochituate water, as well as to citizens of all orders and conditions, who prize the water as a peculiar blessing. A coat forms, he says, upon lead in Cochituate, as in other waters, which for all practical purposes becomes, in process of time, impermeable to, and insoluble in, water in which it occurs. Before arriving at this plain and satisfactory result, which rests on reliable authority, the city must have paid away some fat fees, and received in part return horrible stories about the dreadful influences of lead-pipe on the public health, accompanied by any amount of individual cases, by way of finishing the picture with eclat. We regret that Prof. Horsford's pamphlet could not be distributed to the tax-payers generally. There is a gratifying union of science and common sense, properties very often wanting in papers making great pretensions to both. In all future controversy, and especially in legal medicine, a reference to this elaborate production upon the influence lead exerts on the different kinds of potable water, must necessarily have great weight, since it embraces the discoveries of past ages, and the latest chemical discoveries and deductions at the period of its preparation. Physicians, too, are under great obligations to Prof. Horsford, who has settled questions which they could not, and opened to them a fountain of information, of which all in this section of the country will be glad to avail themselves. The citizens of Boston have very generally, in accordance with the views of their safety entertained by Prof. H., made use of leaden water pipes in their dwellings.

Ohio Lunatic Asylum.—It seems but a very short period of time since the Asylum for Lunatics was commenced in Ohio,—and now there is before us the tenth annual report. The institution, during the period which has thus rapidly passed, has acquired a permanent distinction, of which its founders may be justly proud. There was paid out last year, for the support of the asylum, \$30,210 46, embracing the salaries and \$1,289 64 for repairs and improvements. The average number of patients for the last twelve months was 337. 163 were admitted. The average number of deaths, calculated on the average number of inmates, is 10.08. There were more recoveries in the last official year, and more admissions, than in any previous one. As usual, Dr. Aul has presented a highly gratifying and encouraging picture of the condition and prospects of the splendid State charity over which he presides. His experience was never worth more to the interests of humanity, than at the present juncture, and long may he live to be an instrument, under divine guidance, for ameliorating the condition of a very wretched and much to be commiserated class of beings.

The President of the French Republic and the Cholera.—Prince Louis Napoleon has visited the Hôtel Dieu, the Military Hospital of Val de Grâce, and the Salpêtrière. He has received in these different establishments by the various official persons, and expressed much satisfaction at the zeal and self-denial generally displayed by the attendants of every grade, during the fearful epidemic which is preying upon Paris. He passed through the cholera wards, and bestowed several rewards upon the attendants of the sick, particularly at the Military Hospital. M. Levy, chief surgeon at the latter, was told by the President that he was raised to the rank of officer of the Legion of Honor. At the Salpêtrière, the director, and the superior Sister of Charity, were both laboring under an attack of cholera; the President insisted upon visiting the latter, and expressed great admiration for the generous and indefatigable manner in which all the sisters are fulfilling their perilous duties.—*London Lancet.*

Medical Miscellany.—A lady died at Detroit, Michigan, Aug. 10th, from the effects of inhaling ether, administered by a physician for the purpose of extracting a tooth.—A medical board of examiners, for the appointment of Assistant Surgeons of the U. S. Army, will convene at Philadelphia on the 15th October.—Bertholdi, the geologist, educated under Blumembach, died at Alsau, in July, aged 87 years.—Doctors' fees at the mines in California, are \$100 per visit. A physician from Westchester, N. Y., has established himself on the banks of the Sacramento, in a log-cabin, one-half of which he uses as a store and the other as a hospital; and it is said that he receives as much gold daily as the average of twenty miners.—Cases of yellow fever have been recognized thus early in the season, at New Orleans.—Dr. John C. Pease, of Hartford, Conn., has been appointed 6th auditor of the Post Office Department, at Washington.—Dr. Burroughs, of Buffalo, while playing at ten-pins, at Avon Springs, broke his thigh. It was done by the muscular action of throwing the ball.—*Lobelia inflata* is still extensively employed by quacks, and from the injudicious use of it, a person, who had placed himself under the hands of an herb doctor in the North of England, has lately lost his life. At the inquest, it was proved by two medical witnesses that the deceased had died from the effects of the *lobelia inflata*, and a verdict of manslaughter was returned against the quack.—A mixture of collodion with cantharides has been contrived as a substitute for the ordinary blistering plaster. The cantharides are digested in the ether, and the latter afterwards mixed with the gun-cotton. The part to be blistered is painted over with the collodion by a pencil.—The New York City Inspector's report shows that during the past week there have been 643 deaths, including 164 by cholera.—A simple and effectual means communicated by M. Fredericq, of disguising the abominable taste of cod-liver oil, merely consists in masticating a morsel of orange-peel, just before and just after swallowing the dose.—The stains produced by nitrate of silver on linen, &c., may be readily removed, it is said, by wetting the linen in a solution of *bichloride of mercury* (1 part to 31), rubbing it well, and then washing it in cold water.—The New York Analyst has been discontinued, and its subscription list transferred to the New York Journal of Medicine. The late editor, Dr. N. S. Davis, has been appointed Professor of Physiology and Pathology in Rush Medical College, Chicago.—In the University of Louisville, Prof. Short has resigned the chair of *Materia Medica*, and Dr. Lewis Rogers has been appointed in his stead.

MARRIED,—Howland Holmes, M.D., of West Cambridge, Mass., to Miss M. W. Cotting.

DIED,—Dr. John Gregory, of Drayton, Geo., by suicide—eating opium, 30.—On board the steamer Sarah Sands, four days out at sea, Dr. Fisher, of New York, formerly owner and editor of *The Albion* newspaper.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday, September 1st, 236.—Males, 117—females, 119.—Of cholera, 94—diarrhoea, 5—dysentery, 28—cholera infantum, 3—canker, 2—apoplexy, 1—dropsy, 2—dropsy of the head, 2—typhoid fever, 1—scarlet fever, 1—infantile diseases, 11—disease of the lungs, 2—marasmus, 5—convulsions, 1—paralysis, 2—teething, 10—cholera morbus, 7—disease of the bowels, 31—syphilis, 1—debility, 1—scurvy, 1—disease of the heart, 1—childbed, 1—old age, 2—drowned, 1—disease of the liver, 1—jaundice, 1—unknown, 1—erysipelas, 1—suicide, 1—ulcers, 1—scrofula, 1—consumption, 13.

Under 5 years, 86—between 5 and 20 years, 23—between 20 and 40 years, 76—between 40 and 60 years, 32—over 60 years, 14.

Discoveries.—In the "Association for the Advancement of Science," Aug. 21st, 1849, in Cambridge, Mr. Edward Everett said, "Discoveries, apparently referable to single authors, particular periods, and distinct courses of research, are so only in a limited degree. They are the product of the whole condition of science at the time;—its consummate flower; its ripened fruit. Striking their roots far into the past—they are not made; they have grown. The preparation of centuries has gradually opened the way for them;—hundreds of minds have taken part in the discovery, hundreds of years before it is made. At length the world of science is ripe for the grand result; the fullness of time has come; the gifted genius destined to put the last hand to the work is born, the 'discovery' is made; not seldom, in popular acceptance, with an exaggeration of its absolute novelty, an overrating of the originality of the discoverer and consequent injustice to his predecessors."

Due consideration of the above suggestions might have saved much of the publications made as to the introduction of ether in surgery.

Indiana Central Medical College.—We learn that Dr. A. H. Baker, of Cincinnati, has been appointed Professor of Surgery in the above school. We have been informed that Dr. B. will accept the appointment, but that he will not remove from this city.

Dr. Baker, we understand, has been extensively engaged in surgical practice, and those who have witnessed his operations speak in high commendations of his skill and dexterity as an operator. These qualifications, added to his ready speaking ability, will doubtless render him an efficient teacher of surgery.

We congratulate the new Indiana school upon being so fortunate as to obtain the services of one who will doubtless advance her interests. Dr. Baker will carry with him the best wishes of his friends in Cincinnati, for his success as a teacher of surgery.—*Western Lancet.*

Decline of Medicine in Egypt, and its Rise in Turkey.—The new government of Egypt, far from maintaining or furthering the medical establishments, founded by Ibrahim Pacha, shows a decided re-actionary spirit. Clot-Bey, the French physician, who had done so much for medicine in Egypt, has just retired to France. The medical school of Abou-Babel has but eleven pupils, and young men are sent to Munich for their medical education, to remove them from French influence at home. The board of health is dissolved, and the management of medical matters has been placed in the hands of the secretary at war. These retrograde steps it is extremely painful to notice. A much healthier spirit prevails, on the other hand, in Turkey; most of the useful scientific works are translated and zealously consulted, and the chief physician of the empire, Hair-Ullah Effendi, has just established a medical periodical, which is to be published monthly, both in French and Turkish. The first number has already appeared; it contains a very good leading article, wherein the editor dilates on the usefulness of such a publication, and is signed by him with the title of Doctor of Medicine, and Director of the Imperial School of Galati Serai.—*London Lancet.*